

# Theft

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attended. Police arrested a 23-year-old man April 7 at Smith Family Bookstore for trying to sell back Bayley's property. The case is pending investigation, and Deputy District Attorney Paul Graebner said he does "anticipate that an indictment will be returned."

Associate University Librarian Andrew Bonamici said book and backpack theft is "definitely a problem." Bonamici said he believes some of the thieves who target students at the library are professionals. In response to theft reports, DPS has placed more patrols in the library, Bonamici said.

Noting the size of the library, Bonamici compared leaving possessions unguarded at the Knight Library to leaving them unattended outdoors. Ten to 15 theft reports have been filed at the Knight Library since November 2001, he said.

"Part of the problem is that students are easy marks," said Nancy Smith, manager of the Smith Family Bookstore. "Students have a casual way of life and don't think anything is going to happen to them."

Smith said her store gets reports every day from students who have fallen victim to theft. Theft reports are most common on Mondays, Smith said, because students often leave backpacks — complete with books — in cars during the weekend, which makes for optimal theft conditions.

Another loss-prevention agent at the University Bookstore, who also requested not to be identified, said students need to file theft reports to prevent thieves from cashing in books and to help bookstore employees recover stolen items.

"If students don't file a report, we don't know if it's stolen," the agent said.

Students should file a theft report, including details of what was stolen, with the EPD, DPS and all local bookstores, the agent added.

While filing a report at one bookstore may prevent a thief from selling back books at that particular location, not all stores communicate collectively.

## To prevent theft, and aid in the recovery of stolen material, students should:

- Never leave possessions unattended, even for a moment.
- Report theft to the Department of Public Safety at 346-5444 and the Eugene Police Department at 682-5111.
- Report book theft to Smith Family Bookstore at 345-1651 and the University Bookstore at 346-4331.
- To help bookstore employees identify stolen materials, mark books with an 'x' or initials, either in the front of the book or on a specific page.

SOURCES: EPD, DPS, University Bookstore, Smith Family Bookstore

Photo Illustration by Heather Gee-Pape and Adam Jones Emerald

Theft prevention specialists suggest students pick a page in each of their books to mark. By picking a random page and marking it with an "X" or with one's initials, books become quickly identifiable and can be easily spotted by loss prevention employees.

Attempting to curb the resale of stolen books, the University Bookstore videotapes all book buybacks, creates a paper trail to record all transactions and requires a potential returnee to display a student identification card.

At Smith Family Bookstore, employees handle each situation differently. If an employee suspects someone of selling back stolen

books, often they will lie to the returnee, Smith said. Such fibs could include saying a new edition of a book is coming out or saying a computer froze and that the returnee will have to come back.

If Smith Family Bookstore is aware that a theft has happened, employees are told to watch for the stolen books. Sometimes, Smith said, employees will pay a small amount for the books and will get reimbursed by the books' original owner. Other times, she said, employees will stall the returnee and call police.

E-mail reporter Brad Schmidt at bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com.

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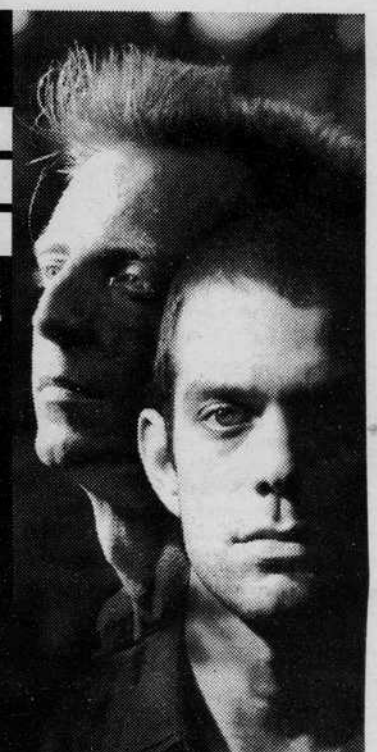
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